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For Immediate Release
July 13, 2006

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Sen. George announces state funding for local projects

LANSING – Sen. Tom George today said he is pleased to announce that some local area projects may be receiving funding in next year's state budget under bills reported out from legislative conference committees.

The money will go toward the removal of dams on the Kalamazoo River, a Kalamazoo area educational program to encourage interest in engineering careers, and to local governments for meth lab cleanup.

"I am happy to report that the Kalamazoo area fared well in budget negotiations and should be receiving some extra funding to help make it a better place to live and receive an education," said George, R-Texas Township. "These budget items help address the needs of the Kalamazoo Valley and I made them a priority during the budget deliberations. They are aimed at improving the quality of life and our educational system."

The budget would provide the following funds:

- \$2 million from the Clean Michigan Initiative Clean Water Fund for the removal of the Otsego, Plainwell and Trowbridge dams on the Kalamazoo River.
- \$175,000 for local governments to use for administrative costs related to the cleanup of methamphetamine lab sites.
- \$100,000 to the Kalamazoo Regional Educational Service Agency to create a countywide pre-college engineering program similar to those in Grand Rapids and Detroit.

The budget for Fiscal Year 2006-2007 begins Oct.1. All conference committee reports now go to the Senate and House for a final vote.